

Remarks/Arguments

Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments and arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-105 were previously pending in the instant application. Within the Office Action, Claims 1-14, 17-19, 21, 22, 24, 29-40, 42-47, 49, 50, 52, 59, 61-76, 83, 97-99, and 104 stand rejected, and Claims 15, 16, 20, 23, 25-28, 41, 48, 51, 53-58, 60, 77-82, 84-96, and 100-103 are objected to. By way of the above amendments, Claims 1, 33, 61, 69, and 104 are amended, and Claims 27, 55, and 82 are canceled. Accordingly, Claims 1-26, 28-54, 56-64, 66-81, and 83-104 are now pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statements

The Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 4, 2004, in which 2 foreign patents and 176 other documents were disclosed. Included is a copy of the PTO Form 1449 (7 pages) and a copy of the filing receipt received on May 3, 2004 by the PTO.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Within the Office Action, Claims 1-14, 17-19, 21, 22, 24, 29-40, 42-47, 49, 50, 52, 59, 61-76, 83, 97-99, and 104 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,269,372 to Chu et al. (Hereafter "Chu '372"). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Within the Office Action, Claims 27, 55, and 82 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 27 is dependent on the independent Claim 1. Claim 55 is dependent on the independent Claim 33. Claim 82 is dependent on the independent Claim 69. By the above amendments, the subject-matter of the dependent Claim 27 is added to the independent Claim 1, and the Claim 27 is canceled. Similarly, the subject-matter of the dependent Claim 55 is added to the independent Claim 33, and the Claim 55 is canceled. The subject-matter of the dependent Claim 82 is added to the independent Claim 69, and the Claim 82 is canceled. As such, the amended independent Claims 1, 33, and 69 are allowable over Chu '372.

Claims 2-14, 17-19, 21, 22, 24, and 29-32 are dependent on the independent Claim 1. As described above, the independent Claim 1 is allowable over the teachings of Chu '372.

For the reasons given above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: 3-15-05

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Date: 3/15/05 By: [Signature]